

LIBRARY

Milford Port Health
Authority.



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1937

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

D. T. Pearce, Printer, Milford Haven.

Milford Port Health
Authority.



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1937

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b2886007x>

MILFORD PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

Chairman: A. H. Codd, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman: W. Phillips, Esq.

COMMITTEE

A. H. Codd, Esq., J.P.

David John, Esq., J.P.

J. Walters, Esq.

F. J. Gay, Esq.

MEMBERS OF AUTHORITY (16) APPOINTED BY:

Milford Haven Urban District Council—

J. Walters, Esq., A. H. Codd, Esq. J.P.

Pembroke Town Council—

David John, Esq., J.P.,

J. Hay, Esq.,

F. J. Gay, Esq.,

J. Gwyther, Esq.

Haverfordwest Town Council

Phillip White, Esq.

G. T. Fitzgerald, Esq.

Neyland Urban District Council—

W. N. James, Esq., J.P.

Pembroke Rural District Council—

A. W. Gutch, Esq., M. C. Ormond, Esq., J. Thomas, Esq.

Haverfordwest Rural District Council—

W. Elkins, Esq., R. H. Field, Esq., William Phillips, Esq.

Narberth Rural District Council

Lord Merthyr.

Medical Officer: H. O. WILLIAMS, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H.
Milford House, Milford Haven.

Inspector: G. S. Logan, A.R.S.I.,
Residence: "Belvedere," Pill Lane,

Office: Docks, Milford Haven.

Clerk: P. O. Davies, Windslade, Milford Haven.

Milford Port Health Authority.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

MILFORD HOUSE,

MILFORD HAVEN

Mr Chairman, my Lord and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1937.

The "Constitution of Authority"; Limit of Jurisdiction and Quarantine Station are as described in previous Report.

Duties of Port Sanitary Authorities.

1. The prevention of the introduction of dangerous infectious disease.

It is seldom that a ship enters the harbour with a case of infectious disease aboard. During the last five years only four cases were reported. But every precaution is taken by the Customs Officer and your Sanitary Inspector; and should a case be discovered you are fully prepared to deal with the situation.

2. The examination of imported foodstuffs. This chiefly consist of fish. A table showing the quantity landed and the amount condemned is in paragraph 8.

The small quantity condemned shows that the fish as landed in Milford is in excellent condition, which is accounted for by the proximity of the fishing grounds and the great care taken in handling and storing the fish at sea.

3. The exercise of supervision over the sanitation of harbours, docks and other premises within your jurisdiction.

The absence of a system of scavenging in some of the villages along the coast results in a lot of rubbish being deposited on the beach. Your Sanitary Inspector has paid special attention to this matter during the year at Dale, Angle, Hazelbeach and Llangwm. The sewage of Haverfordwest enters the Cleddau in a crude state by six main outlets, which is not altogether satisfactory especially during a spell of hot dry weather. And occasionally there is a good deal of pollution of the beach at Cunjic and Gellyswick from the Milford Haven sewer.

(4). To deal with conditions adversely affecting the health of crews and with the sanitary conditions of ships.

Particulars of work done under this heading are given in paragraph VII.

The attention of the Board of Trade should be drawn to the lack of surgical dressings and medicines on board several trawlers. One frequently finds that serious septic complications have arisen for lack of attention at sea to minor injuries. Although there are no venomous fish caught, fishermen are liable to cuts and pricks from the teeth of hake and from spikes on bream, dog-fish, roker &c.; and serious septic poisoning often results. Another cause of great suffering to fishermen, especially boatswains and deckhands, is what is referred to as salt-water boils. These affect the forearms and are due to irritation caused by sand, shell, salt, and the rubbing of the oilskins.

1. Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the year.

TABLE A.

Foreign	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number Reported to be Defective	Number of Vessels on which Defects were remedied	Number of Vessels Reported as having or having had during the Voyage Infectious Disease on Board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector			
Steamers	11	8777	2	11	1	1	nil
Motor & Sailing	118	2925	6	118	—	—	nil
Fishing	109	6796	6	109	2	2	nil
Total	238	18498	14	238	3	3	nil
Coastwise							
Steamers	80	27533	1	80	1	1	nil
Motor & Sailing	36	1653	—	24	—	—	nil
Fishing	4835	375297	14	3607	36	36	nil
Total	4969	404483	15	3711	37	37	nil
Total Foreign & Coastwise	5207	422981	29	3949	40	40	nil

II. Character of Trade of Port.

(a) Passenger Traffic during the Year. nil

(b) Cargo Traffic

Principal Imports : Fish, Artificial Manure, General Merchandise, Oil Fuel, Timber.

Principal Exports : Coal.

Foreign Countries from which vessels arrive :

Belgium, Sweden, West Indies, France, Holland, Germany, Norway, Spain.

Port Facilities

The only industry of any magnitude in the area under your jurisdiction is the fishing industry at Milford Haven, and Milford Haven now ranks as the fourth largest fishing port in England and Wales. More Hake is landed here than at any port in the Kingdom and there are other varieties of fish in which Milford excels. In particular Milford has a supply of herrings for most of the year; and the quality is unsurpassed.

Milford Docks are splendidly equipped in every detail for assisting the fishing industry, There are two modern ice-making plants capable of a daily output of 300 tons. There are several engineering shops for carrying out all repairs to the fishing fleet; there is a newly erected fish meal factory with all the latest machinery. and a new up-to-date box factory which can turn out 3,000 fish boxes per day. The market is 1,150 feet in length and the G.W.R. runs alongside the docks. The loading platform is covered in so as to avoid exposing the fish to the rain and sun.

The Mackerel and Herring Market has been extended 150 feet—and three electric conveyors have been supplied to carry the fish to the market.

At the present time there are 94 trawlers attached to the port and during most of the year a large number of drifters from the East Coast fish out of Milford. Of recent years a large number of Spanish trawlers visit the port during the spring and summer.

III. Source of Water Supply.

(a) For the Port :- An adequate pumping Plant gives a convenient supply of clean sea water for all purposes to every part of the Fish Market.

Hydrants are fitted along the Dock walls for the convenience of washing out the Fish Rooms.

(b) For Shipping :- From Milford Haven Urban District Council.

(c) Number of Water Boats and their sanitary condition - nil.

IV. Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.

Under these Regulations the following proposals for mooring Stations have been approved for Milford, Neyland, Pembroke, Haverfordwest and all other Small quays within Milford Haven, viz. :

(a) Under Article 10 (2)

“ That part of the Haven bounded on the West by a line drawn 180 degrees from the flagstaff on the Fort at South Hook Point, and on the East by a line joining Little Wick No 1. Buoy and Popton Point.”

(b) Under Article 10 (1)

“ The Ships' place of Mooring, discharge or loading.”

This agreement is subject to the following understanding.

(1) That the mooring place referred to in (a) above is for ships unhealthy under Article 12 (1) and that at (b) for all other unhealthy ships ; and

(2) That a standing exemption from detention under Article 14 has been granted by the Medical Officer in respect of ships with infectious disease (other than Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Typhus Fever and Small Pox) on board and ships (except grain laden) otherwise clean which have arrived from areas listed under Article II.

V. Infectious Disease.

All vessels entering the Port are boarded by your Sanitary Inspector who reports any cases of Infectious Disease to your Medical Officer.

Arrangements have been made with the County Council for the immediate isolation and treatment of any such cases other than Yellow Fever, Cholera and Plague, at the Pembroke Dock Isolation Hospital.

Here also arrangements have been made for the disinfection of infected bedding, clothing, etc., as well as for the cleansing of verminous persons. The Hospital is provided with a Motor Ambulance for conveying patients to the Hospital. In addition, you have your own Hospital at Sandy Haven, where any cases of Cholera, Plague or Yellow Fever would be admitted

Table C.

Cases of Infectious Diseases landed from Vessels.

During 1937	—	Nil
During last five years	—	4

Table D.

Cases of Infectious Diseases occurring on Vessels during the Voyage but disposed of prior to Arrival

During 1937	—	Nil
During last five years	—	Nil

The CLINIC for the treatment of Venereal Disease for the port of Milford is at Swansea General and Eye Hospital, where all Bacteriological work in connection with the Port is carried out.

Leaflets prepared and provided by the Ministry of Health giving information on the dangers of Venereal disease and on facilities for treatment are supplied when found necessary to the crews of Vessels by your Sanitary Inspector.

VI. Measures Against Rodents.

Ships that call at the Port usually stay one day to unload their cargo and take in stores, the vessels being chiefly trawlers and small cargo vessels.

If any rats are known to be on board, instructions are given to set traps and poison baits, and if these methods do not reduce the numbers the vessel is fumigated with S°_2 which has always proved effective. Six vessels were so treated this year.

During his inspection the Sanitary Inspector examines all food lockers, bins, trunks, etc., for traces of rats. The owners are advised to have all bins and food lockers lined with tin or sheet iron.

Gangways are not fitted to any fishing vessel, and rat proof discs are not fitted to the mooring lines.

There being no official Rat Catcher employed no record of the number of rats destroyed is kept.

This is not a Deratisation Port therefore no "Port II" forms are issued.

VII. Hygiene of Crews' Spaces.

TABLE J.

CLASSIFICATION OF NUISANCES.

Nationality of Vessel	Number Inspected during 1937	Defects of original construction	Structural defects through wear & tear	Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
British	3711	2	18	30
Other Nations	238	—	—	6

VIII. Food Inspection.

Approximate

Monthly Tonnage of Fish
landed and inspected
during the year.

Month	Tonnage
January	3394
February	4034
March	4784
April	4219
May	4857
June	4660
July	5190
August	4676
September	4509
October	4065
November	3983
December	3280
Total	51,651

Monthly Record of
unsound Fish condemned,
surrendered & destroyed

Month	Tons	cwt.	qrs.
January	—	—	3
February	—	1	2
March	—	1	1
April	—	3	0
May	—	4	2
June	2	19	2
July	—	5	3
August	—	10	1
September	2	17	2
October	—	4	1
November	1	1	0
December	—	3	0
Total	8	12	1

It will be seen from the above table that there has been no diminution in the harvest of the sea, but the fact that during August a large quantity of excellent fish was dumped into the sea shows there is something radically wrong with the system of distribution. It is to be hoped that a remedy will be found for this; so that the arduous work of the fishermen will be duly rewarded and the fruit of their labour be better utilised for the comfort and health of others.

Shell Fish.

Cockles are caught in Pennar, Pwllcrochan and Angle Bay.

Crabs and Lobsters are caught at Angle and Dale.

Prawns and Mussels at Dale.

There is no danger of pollution from sewage in these districts.

I have to thank Mr Logan for his faithful assistance during the year.

I am,

Mr Chairman, my Lord and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. O. WILLIAMS

